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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

14 MAY 1974

The Honorable William Clements
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of 20 April in response to my request for concurrence and comments on the Key Intelligence Questions. As you have recognized, more work will be necessary before we are all satisfied with the KIQs and the KIQ Evaluation Process. I believe, however, that we are making progress, and this should be apparent in the KIQs for FY 1975 and in the revised version of the Evaluation Process which will accompany them.

As you have noted, some of the questions which DOD suggested in December 1973 were not added (in explicit form) to the KIQs for FY 1974. One of the reasons for this was that the total number of KIQs must be severely limited. Nevertheless, a feature of the KIQ Evaluation Process does, in effect, permit an expansion of the contents of the KIQs and allow quite specific questions--of the sort you mention--to be addressed. Thus, during the discussion of information deficiencies, which is a major aspect of the Evaluation Process, the NIOs and your representatives will be able to deal with specifics and add them to the baseline report.

We are of course familiar with the Critical Near-Term Defense Intelligence Objectives (CNTDIO), and I agree that their content must be reflected in the KIQs. Indeed, my IC Staff is now examining this matter and discussing it with DIA.

I wish to assure you that we shall make sure that the KIQs provide a timely input to the Annual DOD Budget Review (and, of course, my own National Intelligence Program as well).

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I recognize that the KIQ process does not provide us with a comprehensive basis for recommending resource allocations across the board. I do think, however, that it can be a process which will help us to ensure that our resources are being effectively deployed against the most important national intelligence problems.

Consumer satisfaction with this process is all-important. I am therefore grateful for your comments and your continued support.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

W. E. Colby

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